UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

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Fourth session
Bonn, 11-22 December 2000

# STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

## Note by the secretariat

1. The text of the Convention was adopted at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at Paris on 17 June 1994; it was opened for signature at Paris on 14 and 15 October 1994, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 13 October 1995. By that date, the Convention had received 115 signatures. The Convention entered into force on 26 December 1996. Those States that have not signed the Convention may accede to it at any time.

2. For the States that ratify, accept or approve the Convention or accede thereto after the date of entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

3. This document contains information concerning dates of signature and ratification received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary, as at 7 March 2001.

4. The information is presented in two tables. All Parties to the Convention as at 7 March 2001 are listed in alphabetical order in table 1. The second table shows the general status of ratification of the Convention. The dates in the column on ratification are those of the receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession by the Depositary.

5. For the purpose of this document, all references to ratification include information on accession, acceptance and approval of the Convention.

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ENG

Table 1. Parties to the Convention*
(as at 7 March 2001)

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Angola
5. Antigua and Barbuda
6. Argentina
7. Armenia
8. Australia
9. Austria
10. Azerbaijan
11. Bahamas
12. Bahrain
13. Bangladesh
14. Barbados
15. Belgium
16. Belize
17. Benin
18. Bolivia
19. Botswana
20. Brazil
21. Burkina Faso
22. Burundi
23. Cambodia
24. Cameroon
25. Canada
26. Cape Verde
27. Central African Republic
28. Chad
29. Chile
30. China
31. Colombia
32. Comoros
33. Congo
34. Cook Islands
35. Costa Rica
36. Côte d'Ivoire
37. Croatia
38. Cuba
39. Cyprus
40. Czech Republic
41. Democratic Republic of the Congo
42. Denmark
43. Djibouti
44. Dominica
45. Dominican Republic
46. Ecuador
47. Egypt
48. El Salvador
49. Equatorial Guinea
50. Eritrea
51. Ethiopia
52. European Community
53. Fiji
54. Finland
55. France
56. Gabon
57. Gambia
58. Georgia
59. Germany
60. Ghana
61. Greece
62. Grenada
63. Guatemala
64. Guinea
65. Guinea-Bissau
66. Guyana
67. Haiti
68. Honduras
69. Hungary
70. Iceland
71. India
72. Indonesia
73. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
74. Ireland
75. Israel
76. Italy
77. Jamaica
78. Japan
79. Jordan
80. Kazakhstan
81. Kenya
82. Kiribati
83. Kuwait
84. Kyrgyzstan
85. Lao People's Democratic Republic
86. Lebanon
87. Lesotho
88. Liberia
89. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
90. Liechtenstein
91. Luxembourg
92. Madagascar
93. Malawi
94. Malaysia
95. Mali
96. Malta
97. Marshall Islands
98. Mauritania
99. Mauritius
100. Mexico
101. Micronesia (Federated States of)
102. Monaco
103. Mongolia
104. Morocco
105. Mozambique
106. Myanmar
107. Namibia
108. Nauru
109. Nepal
110. Netherlands
111. New Zealand
112. Nicaragua
113. Niger
114. Nigeria
115. Niue
116. Norway
117. Oman
118. Pakistan
119. Palau
120. Panama
121. Papua New Guinea
122. Paraguay
123. Peru
124. Philippines
125. Portugal
126. Qatar
127. Republic of Korea
128. Republic of Moldova
129. Romania
130. Rwanda
131. Saint Kitts and Nevis
132. Saint Lucia
133. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
134. Samoa
135. San Marino
136. Sao Tome and Principe
137. Saudi Arabia
138. Senegal
139. Seychelles
140. Sierra Leone
141. Singapore
142. Solomon Islands
143. South Africa
144. Spain
145. Sri Lanka
146. Sudan
147. Suriname
148. Swaziland
149. Sweden
150. Switzerland
151. Syrian Arab Republic
152. Tajikistan
153. Togo
154. Tonga
155. Trinidad and Tobago
156. Tunisia
157. Turkey
158. Turkmenistan
159. Tuvalu
160. Uganda
161. United Arab Emirates
162. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
163. United Republic of Tanzania
164. United States of America
165. Uruguay
166. Uzbekistan
167. Vanuatu
168. Venezuela
169. Viet Nam
170. Yemen
171. Zambia
172. Zimbabwe

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* Bulgaria has ratified the Convention but has not yet become Parties to it (see table 2).

Table 2. Status of ratification
(R=Ratification, Ac=Accession, At=Acceptance)

| Country | Signature | Ratification | Entry into force |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Afghanistan | | 01/11/95(Ac) | 26/12/96 |
| 2. Albania | | 27/04/00(Ac) | 26/07/00 |
| 3. Algeria | 14/10/94 | 22/05/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 4. Angola | 14/10/94 | 30/06/97(R) | 28/09/97 |
| 5. Antigua and Barbuda | 04/04/95 | 06/06/97(R) | 04/09/97 |
| 6. Argentina | 15/10/94 | 06/01/97(R) | 06/04/97 |
| 7. Armenia | 14/10/94 | 02/07/97(R) | 30/09/97 |
| 8. Australia | 14/10/94 | 15/05/00(R) | 13/08/00 |
| 9. Austria | | 02/06/97(Ac) | 31/08/97 |
| 10. Azerbaijan | | 10/08/98(Ac) | 08/11/98 |
| 11. Bahamas | | 10/11/00(Ac) | 08/02/01 |
| 12. Bahrain | | 14/07/97(Ac) | 12/10/97 |
| 13. Bangladesh | 14/10/94 | 26/01/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 14. Barbados | | 14/05/97(Ac) | 12/08/97 |
| 15. Belgium | | 30/06/97(Ac) | 28/09/97 |
| 16. Belize | | 23/07/98(Ac) | 21/10/98 |
| 17. Benin | 14/10/94 | 29/08/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 18. Bolivia | 14/10/94 | 01/08/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 19. Botswana | 12/10/95 | 11/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 20. Brazil | 14/10/94 | 25/06/97(R) | 23/09/97 |
| 21. Bulgaria | | 21/02/01(Ac) | 22/05/01 |
| 22. Burkina Faso | 14/10/94 | 26/01/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 23. Burundi | 14/10/94 | 06/01/97(R) | 06/04/97 |
| 24. Cambodia | 15/10/94 | 18/08/97(R) | 16/11/97 |
| 25. Cameroon | 14/10/94 | 29/05/97(R) | 27/08/97 |
| 26. Canada | 14/10/94 | 01/12/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 27. Cape Verde | 14/10/94 | 08/05/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 28. Central African Republic | 14/10/94 | 05/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 29. Chad | 14/10/94 | 27/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 30. Chile | 03/03/95 | 11/11/97(R) | 09/01/98 |
| 31. China | 14/10/94 | 18/02/97(R) | 19/05/97 |
| 32. Colombia | 14/10/94 | 08/06/99(R) | 06/09/99 |
| 33. Comoros | 14/10/94 | 03/03/98(R) | 01/06/98 |
| 34. Congo | 15/10/94 | 12/07/99(R) | 11/10/99 |
| 35. Cook Islands | | 21/08/98(Ac) | 19/11/98 |
| 36. Costa Rica | 15/10/94 | 05/01/98(R) | 05/04/98 |
| 37. Côte d'Ivoire | 15/10/94 | 04/03/97(R) | 02/06/97 |
| 38. Croatia | 15/10/94 | 06/10/00(At) | 04/01/01 |
| 39. Cuba | 15/10/94 | 13/03/97(R) | 11/06/97 |
| 40. Cyprus | | 29/03/00(Ac) | 27/06/00 |
| 41. Czech Republic | | 25/01/00(Ac) | 24/04/00 |
| 42. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 14/10/94 | 12/09/97(R) | 11/11/97 |

| Country | Signature | Ratification | Entry into force |
|---|---|---|---|
| 43. Denmark | 15/10/94 | 22/12/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 44. Djibouti | 15/10/94 | 12/06/97(R) | 10/08/97 |
| 45. Dominica | | 08/12/97(Ac) | 08/03/98 |
| 46. Dominican Republic | | 26/06/97(Ac) | 24/09/97 |
| 47. Ecuador | 19/01/95 | 06/09/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 48. Egypt | 14/10/94 | 07/07/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 49. El Salvador | | 27/06/97(Ac) | 25/09/97 |
| 50. Equatorial Guinea | 14/10/94 | 27/06/97(R) | 25/09/97 |
| 51. Eritrea | 14/10/94 | 14/08/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 52. Ethiopia | 15/10/94 | 27/06/97(R) | 25/09/97 |
| 53. Fiji | | 26/08/98(Ac) | 24/11/98 |
| 54. Finland | 15/10/94 | 20/09/95(At) | 26/12/96 |
| 55. France | 14/10/94 | 12/06/97(R) | 10/09/98 |
| 56. Gabon | | 06/09/96(Ac) | 26/12/96 |
| 57. Gambia | 14/10/94 | 11/06/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 58. Georgia | 15/10/94 | 23/07/99(R) | 21/10/99 |
| 59. Germany | 14/10/94 | 10/07/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 60. Ghana | 15/10/94 | 27/12/96(R) | 27/03/97 |
| 61. Greece | 14/10/94 | 05/05/97(R) | 03/08/97 |
| 62. Grenada | | 28/05/97(Ac) | 25/09/97 |
| 63. Guatemala | | 10/09/98(Ac) | 09/12/98 |
| 64. Guinea | 14/10/94 | 23/06/97(R) | 21/09/97 |
| 65. Guinea-Bissau | 15/10/94 | 27/10/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 66. Guyana | | 26/06/97(Ac) | 24/09/97 |
| 67. Haiti | 15/10/94 | 25/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 68. Honduras | 22/02/95 | 25/06/97(R) | 23/09/97 |
| 69. Hungary | | 13/07/99(Ac) | 11/10/99 |
| 70. Iceland | | 03/06/97(Ac) | 01/09/97 |
| 71. India | 14/10/94 | 17/12/96(R) | 17/03/97 |
| 72. Indonesia | 15/10/94 | 31/08/98(R) | 29/11/98 |
| 73. Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 14/10/94 | 29/04/97(R) | 28/07/97 |
| 74. Ireland | 15/10/94 | 31/07/97(R) | 29/10/97 |
| 75. Israel | 14/10/94 | 26/03/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 76. Italy | 14/10/94 | 23/06/97(R) | 21/09/97 |
| 77. Jamaica | | 12/11/97(Ac) | 12/03/98 |
| 78. Japan | 14/10/94 | 11/09/98(At) | 10/12/98 |
| 79. Jordan | 13/04/95 | 21/10/96(R) | 19/01/97 |
| 80. Kazakhstan | 14/10/94 | 09/07/97(R) | 07/10/97 |
| 81. Kenya | 14710/94 | 24/06/97(R) | 22/09/97 |
| 82. Kiribati | | 08/09/98(Ac) | 07/12/98 |
| 83. Kyrgyzstan | | 19/09/97(Ac) | 18/12/97 |
| 84. Kuwait | 22/09/95 | 27/06/97(R) | 25/09/97 |
| 85. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 30/08/95 | 20/09/96(At) | 26/12/96 |

| Country | Signature | Ratification | Entry into force |
|---|---|---|---|
| 86. Lebanon | 14/10/94 | 16/05/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 87. Lesotho | 15/10/94 | 12/09/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 88. Liberia | | 02/03/98(Ac) | 31/05/98 |
| 89. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 15/10/94 | 22/07/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 90. Liechtenstein | | 29/12/99(Ac) | 28/03/00 |
| 91. Luxembourg | 14/10/94 | 04/02/97(R) | 05/05/97 |
| 92. Madagascar | 14/10/94 | 25/06/97(R) | 23/09/97 |
| 93. Malaysia | 06/10/95 | 25/06/97(R) | 23/09/97 |
| 94. Malawi | 17/01/95 | 13/06/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 95. Mali | 15/10/94 | 31/10/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 96. Malta | 15/10/94 | 30/01/98(R) | 30/04/98 |
| 97. Marshall Islands | | 02/06/98(Ac) | 31/08/98 |
| 98. Mauritania | 14/10/94 | 07/08/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 99. Mauritius | 17/03/95 | 23/01/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 100. Mexico | 15/10/94 | 03/04/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 101. Micronesia (Federated States of) | 12/12/94 | 25/03/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 102. Monaco | | 05/03/99(Ac) | 03/06/99 |
| 103. Mongolia | 15/10/94 | 03/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 104. Morocco | 15/10/94 | 07/11/96(R) | 06/02/97 |
| 105. Mozambique | 28/09/95 | 13/03/97(R) | 11/06/97 |
| 106. Myanmar | | 02/01/97(Ac) | 02/04/97 |
| 107. Namibia | 24/10/94 | 16/05/97(R) | 14/08/97 |
| 108. Nauru | | 22/09/98(Ac) | 21/12/98 |
| 109. Nepal | 12/10/95 | 15/10/96(R) | 13/01/97 |
| 110. Netherlands[a] | 15/10/94 | 27/06/95(At) | 26/12/96 |
| 111. New Zealand[b] | | 07/09/00(Ac) | 06/12/00 |
| 112. Nicaragua | 21/11/94 | 17/02/98(R) | 18/05/98 |
| 113. Niger | 14/10/94 | 19/01/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 114. Nigeria | 31/10/94 | 08/07/97(R) | 06/10/97 |
| 115. Niue | | 14/08/98(Ac) | 12/11/98 |
| 116. Norway | 15/10/94 | 30/08/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 117. Oman | | 23/07/96(Ac) | 26/12/96 |
| 118. Pakistan | 15/10/94 | 24/02/97(R) | 25/05/97 |
| 119. Palau | | 15/06/99(Ac) | 13/09/99 |
| 120. Panama | 22/02/95 | 04/04/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 121. Papua New Guinea | | 06/12/00(Ac) | 06/03/01 |
| 122. Paraguay | 01/12/94 | 15/01/97(R) | 15/04/97 |
| 123. Peru | 15/10/94 | 09/11/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 124. Philippines | 08/12/94 | 10/02/00(R) | 10/05/00 |
| 125. Portugal | 14/10/94 | 01/04/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 126. Qatar | | 15/03/99(Ac) | 13/06/99 |
| 127. Republic of Korea | 14/10/94 | 17/08/99(R) | 15/11/99 |
| 128. Republic of Moldova | | 10/03/99(Ac) | 08/06/99 |

| Country | Signature | Ratification | Entry into force |
|---|---|---|---|
| 129. Romania | | 19/08/98(Ac) | 17/11/98 |
| 130. Rwanda | 22/06/95 | 22/10/98(R) | 20/01/99 |
| 131. Saint Kitts and Nevis | | 30/06/97(Ac) | 28/09/97 |
| 132. Saint Lucia | | 02/07/97(Ac) | 30/09/97 |
| 133. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 15/10/94 | 16/03/98(R) | 14/06/98 |
| 134. Samoa | | 21/08/98(Ac) | 19/11/98 |
| 135. San Marino | | 23/07/99(Ac) | 21/10/99 |
| 136. Sao Tome and Principe | 04/10/95 | 08/07/98(R) | 06/10/98 |
| 137. Saudi Arabia | | 25/06/97(Ac) | 23/09/97 |
| 138. Senegal | 14/10/94 | 26/07/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 139. Seychelles | 14/10/94 | 26/06/97(R) | 24/09/97 |
| 140. Sierra Leone | 11/11/94 | 25/09/97(R) | 24/12/97 |
| 141. Singapore | | 26/04/99(Ac) | 25/07/99 |
| 142. Solomon Islands | | 16/04/99(Ac) | 15/07/99 |
| 143. South Africa | 09/01/95 | 30/09/97(R) | 29/12/97 |
| 144. Spain | 14/10/94 | 30/01/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 145. Sri Lanka | | 09/12/98(Ac) | 09/03/99 |
| 146. Sudan | 15/10/94 | 24/11/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 147. Suriname | | 01/06/00(Ac) | 30/08/00 |
| 148. Swaziland | 27/07/95 | 07/10/96(R) | 05/01/97 |
| 149. Sweden | 15/10/94 | 12/12/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 150. Switzerland | 14/10/94 | 19/01/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 151. Syrian Arab Republic | 15/10/94 | 10/06/97(R) | 08/09/97 |
| 152. Tajikistan | | 16/07/97(Ac) | 14/10/97 |
| 153. Togo | 15/10/94 | 04/10/95(At) | 26/12/96 |
| 154. Tonga | | 25/09/98(Ac) | 24/12/98 |
| 155. Trinidad and Tobago | | 08/06/00(Ac) | 06/09/00 |
| 156. Tunisia | 14/10/94 | 11/10/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 157. Turkey | 14/10/94 | 31/03/98(R) | 29/06/98 |
| 158. Turkmenistan | 27/03/95 | 18/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 159. Tuvalu | | 14/09/98(Ac) | 13/12/98 |
| 160. Uganda | 21/11/94 | 25/06/97(R) | 23/09/97 |
| 161. United Arab Emirates | | 21/10/98(Ac) | 19/01/99 |
| 162. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[c] | 14/10/94 | 18/10/96(R) | 16/01/97 |
| 163. United Republic of Tanzania | 14/10/94 | 19/06/97(R) | 17/09/97 |
| 164. United States of America | 14/10/94 | 17/11/00(R) | 15/02/01 |
| 165. Uruguay | | 17/02/99(Ac) | 18/05/99 |
| 166. Uzbekistan | 07/12/94 | 31/10/95(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 167. Vanuatu | 28/09/95 | 10/08/99(R) | 08/11/99 |
| 168. Venezuela | | 29/06/98(Ac) | 27/09/98 |
| 169. Viet Nam | | 25/08/98(Ac) | 23/11/98 |
| 170. Yemen | | 14/01/97(Ac) | 14/04/97 |

| Country | Signature | Ratification | Entry into force |
|---|---|---|---|
| 171. Zambia | 15/10/94 | 19/09/96(R) | 26/12/96 |
| 172. Zimbabwe | 15/10/94 | 23/09/97(R) | 22/12/97 |
| Regional Economic Integration Organization | | | |
| 173. European Community | 14/10/94 | 26/03/98(R) | 24/06/98 |
| **TOTAL** | **115** | **173** | |

Notes:

* For the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Europe.

** "New Zealand declares that, consistent with the constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account its commitment to the development of self-government through an act of self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations, this ratification shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a Declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the Depositary on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory."

*** For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the British Virgin Islands, St. Helena and Ascension Island. Subsequently, on 24 December 1996, the Government of the United Kingdom notified the Secretary-General that the Convention would apply to Montserrat.

Declarations

**ALGERIA**

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 28, paragraph 2, of the [said Convention], to the effect that any dispute must be submitted to the International Court of Justice.

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria declares that for a dispute submitted to the International Court of Justice, the consent of both parties will be necessary in each case.

**AUSTRIA**

"The Republic of Austria declares in accordance with article 28 of the Convention that it accepts both of the means of dispute in paragraph 2 as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting an obligation concerning one or both of these means of dispute settlement."

**GUATEMALA**

"The Republic of Guatemala declares that, in respect of any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, it recognizes arbitration in accordance with procedures adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable as a means of dispute settlement, compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation. This declaration shall remain in force until three months after written notice of its revocation has been deposited with the Depositary."

**KUWAIT**

With respect to the State of Kuwait, any additional regional implementation annex or any amendment to any regional implementation annex shall enter into force only upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession with respect thereto.

**NETHERLANDS**

"The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 28 of [the said Convention] that it accepts both means of dispute settlement referred to in that paragraph as compulsory in relation to any party accepting one or both of these means of dispute settlement."

**NEW ZEALAND**

"Any additional regional implementation annex or any amendment to any regional implementation annex to the Convention shall enter into force for new Zealand only upon the Government of New Zealand's deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect thereto."

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Understandings:

"(1) Foreign assistance.-- The United States understands that, as a "developed country," pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention and its Annexes, it is not obligated to satisfy specific funding requirements or other specific requirements regarding the provision of any resource, including technology, to any "affected country," as defined in Article 1 of the Convention. The United States understands that ratification of the Convention does not alter its domestic legal processes to determine foreign assistance funding or programs.

"(2) Financial resources and mechanism.-- The United States understands that neither Article 20 nor Article 21 of the Convention impose obligations to provide specific levels of funding for the Global Environmental Facility, or the Global Mechanism, to carry out the objectives of the Convention, or for any other purpose.

"(3) United States land management.-- The United States understands that it is a "developed country party" as defined in Article 1 of the Convention, and that it is not required to prepare a national action program pursuant to Part III, Section 1, of the Convention. The United States also understands that no changes to its existing land management practices and programs will be required to meet its obligations under Articles 4 or 5 of the Convention.

"(4) Legal process for amending the Convention.-- In accordance with Article 34 (4), any additional regional implementation annex to the Convention or any amendment to any regional implementation annex to the Convention shall enter into force for the United States only upon the deposit of a corresponding instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

"(5) Dispute settlement.-- The United States declines to accept as compulsory either of the dispute settlement means set out in Article 28(2), and understands that it will not be bound by the outcome, findings, conclusions or recommendations of a conciliation process initiated under Article 28 (6). For any dispute arising from this Convention, the United States does not recognize or accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice."

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